



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**STUDY SUMMARY – WHITE PAPER**

**January 12, 2023**

**MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) High Injury Network Safety Study  
Recommendations Specific to Montgomery County DOT**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Montgomery County’s Vision Zero Initiative establishes the goal of eliminating serious injury and fatal crashes on Montgomery County roads by the year 2030. As part of achieving this goal, the County identifies roadway segments where serious injury and fatal crashes are concentrated. These roadway segments comprise the County’s High Injury Network (HIN) and roadway safety improvement efforts have been and are being developed for implementation.

The purpose of the subject Study Summary is to present recommended road user safety improvements, for which Montgomery County DOT (MCDOT) is responsible, as derived from the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) HIN Safety Study. Recommendations in this summary include actionable items, though some recommended improvements are currently not funded or scheduled for planning, design, or construction. These improvements are anticipated to be pursued as funding becomes available.

The MD 97 HIN Safety Study, to which this Study Summary relates, is diagnostic in nature. While funded and conducted by MCDOT, the study limits include facilities under the jurisdiction of Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA).

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS (MCDOT-SPECIFIC)**

The tables and figures, below, summarize the recommended improvements from the MD 97 HIN Safety Study report that are the responsibility of MCDOT. Other relevant information, such as location, issue number, safety issue/observations, and timeframe for implementation (once pursuit of a recommendation is initiated) has also been retained from the MD 97 HIN Safety Study report and is shown in the tables below. Recommended improvements are also reflected on aerial maps to better illustrate their location. The improvements in the figures can be cross-referenced with the table by the “issue number” associated with each recommendation. For additional information regarding these recommendations, please contact us at [TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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**Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations**

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[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot)

For information regarding potential actions along non-MCDOT roadways, you may contact Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) at [sha\\_ccms@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:sha_ccms@mdot.maryland.gov) or [https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customercare/request\\_for\\_service](https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customercare/request_for_service).

**Table 1: MCDOT-Specific Recommendations**

Issue No.	Safety Issue/Observations	Recommendation	Timeframe
Location 1: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Bel Pre Road - Signalized Intersection			
1.08	Maintenance. Broken conduit for pole mounted enclosure.	Repair the exposed wiring on the signal mast arm in the northeast (NE) corner channelized island.	0 – 6 months
1.11	Maintenance. Pushbutton sign has the incorrect street name.	Replace "Pushbutton to Cross" (R10-3(1)) sign for south leg crossing MD 97 in the SE quadrant.	0 – 6 months
1.18	Maintenance. Pavement markings in poor condition.	Restripe all longitudinal pavement markings along Bel Pre Rd west leg.	0 – 6 months
1.19	Vehicular Operations. Queues along Bel Pre Road hinder access for driveways and side streets.	Install DO NOT BLOCK THE INTERSECTION signing (R10-7) and pavement marking treatments on Bel Pre Rd for the church and apartment driveways to the east, and London Lane to the west.	0 – 6 months
1.20	Maintenance. Nearside traffic signal head in SE curbed island is facing towards uncontrolled right turn lane.	Reorient traffic signal head to face towards NB MD 97 thru lanes.	0 – 6 months
Location 2: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Bel Pre Road and Heathfield Road – Road Segment			
2.07	Maintenance. Sidewalk damaged.	Repair the exposed aggregate sidewalk along NB MD 97, just north of Postgate Terrace.	0 – 6 months
Location 3: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Heathfield Road/Postgate Terrace – Signalized Intersection			
3.06	Maintenance. Sidewalk surface is chipping.	Repair the exposed aggregate sidewalk near NB bus stop (WMATA ID 2001361).	0 – 12 months
3.09	Maintenance. Audible message malfunction.	Repair the APS pushbutton station without audible message for north crossing (NE quadrant).	0 – 6 months
3.10	Maintenance. MDOT SHA APS design guidance non-compliance.	Reorient the APS pushbutton station that is facing away from the sidewalk in the SE corner of the intersection.	0 – 6 months
Location 4: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Heathfield Road and the Home Depot Driveway – Road Segment			
4.03	Maintenance. Sidewalk surface is chipping.	Replace exposed aggregate sidewalk in poor condition along the SB direction of MD 97 – approximately 800 linear feet.	6 – 12 months
Location 5: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Home Depot Driveway			
5.04	Maintenance. Curb and sidewalk damaged by vehicle overruns.	Repair the curb in the southwest quadrant of the Home Depot Driveway intersection.	6 – 12 months

**Table 1: MCDOT-Specific Recommendations**

Issue No.	Safety Issue/Observations	Recommendation	Timeframe
Location 6: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) – Signalized Intersection			
6.06	Maintenance. Sidewalk surface is chipping.	Repair exposed aggregate sidewalk in the NW corner.	0 – 12 months
6.07	Maintenance. CPS is malfunctioning, no countdown.	Replace malfunctioning CPS in the SW quadrant for pedestrians crossing the west leg of the intersection (crossing MD 185).	0 – 6 months
6.08	Maintenance. Missing pedestrian information sign.	Replace "Push button to Cross" (R10-3(1)) sign for crossing the north leg (crossing MD 97) in the NE corner.	0 – 6 months
6.09	Ped-Vehicle Conflicts. Pedestrian clearance times are shorter than required for 3.5 ft/sec walking speed based on crossing lengths.	Revise pedestrian clearance times for crossing the west MD 185, north MD 97, and south MD 97 intersection legs to meet appropriate flashing don't walk time for 3.5 ft/sec walking speed.	0 – 6 months
6.10	Maintenance. Pedestrian information sign does not list roadway name.	Replace "Push button to Cross" (R10-3(1)) sign for crossing the west leg (crossing MD 185) in the NW corner.	0 – 6 months
6.11	Maintenance. Sidewalk in poor condition.	Repair the sidewalk and curb at the bus stop (WMATA ID 2000890) in the NE corner.	0 – 6 months
6.13	Maintenance. Sidewalk and curb damaged.	Repair sidewalk in the southeast corner.	0 – 12 months
6.33	Ped Facilities. The pedestrian push button in the NW corner of the intersection for the west leg crosswalk (crossing MD 185) is mounted higher than the ADA max height of 42".	Lower the pedestrian push button in the NW corner of the intersection for the west leg (crossing MD 185), so that it is mounted according to ADA guidelines.	0 – 6 months
Location 7: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Aspen Hill Road – Road Segment			
7.03	Maintenance. Sidewalk vertical discontinuities.	Bevel the sidewalk along the NB MD 97 roadway to remove vertical discontinuities between Gate of Heaven Cemetery driveways.	0 – 12 months
Location 8: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Aspen Hill Road – Signalized Intersection			
8.02	Maintenance. CPS malfunction.	Replace malfunctioning CPS for the east leg crossing (WALK does not display on NE corner) (for crossing Gate of Heaven Cemetery driveway).	0 – 6 months
8.03	Maintenance. CPS malfunction.	Replace malfunctioning CPS for the south leg crossing (countdown does not display on SW corner) (for crossing MD 97).	0 – 6 months
Location 11: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Wendy Lane and Ralph Road – Road Segment			
11.01	Maintenance. Sidewalk damage from utility work.	Repair curb and sidewalk damage along SB MD 97 near fire hydrant approximately 120 feet north of Ralph Road.	0 – 6 months
Location 13: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Ralph Road and Hewitt Avenue – Road Segment			
13.01	Maintenance. Sidewalk and driveway apron damaged and collecting sediment.	Repair the sidewalk damage along SB MD 97 at the maintenance driveway apron.	0 – 6 months

**Table 1: MCDOT-Specific Recommendations**

Issue No.	Safety Issue/Observations	Recommendation	Timeframe
Location 14: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Hewitt Avenue – Signalized Intersection			
14.04	Ped Facility Limitations. Frequent vulnerable road user activity at intersection due to transit stops and trail access.	Reduce the signal cycle length to 120 seconds.	0 – 12 months
Location 00: Corridor-Wide			
00.11	Traffic Operations	Modify traffic signal timing offsets and signal timing schedule optimizations at all intersections.	0 – 6 months

Figure 1: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Bel Pre Road

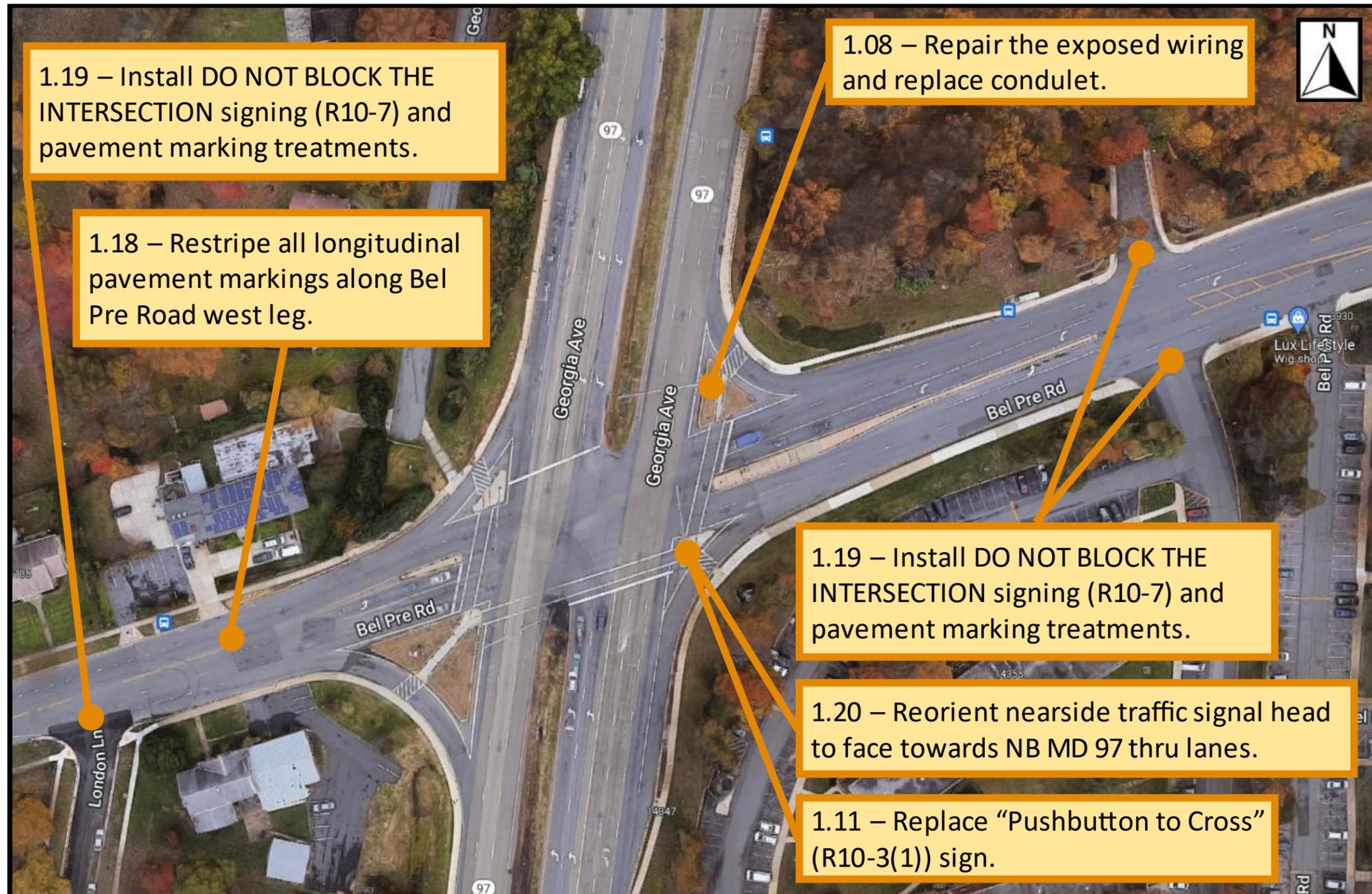


Figure 2: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Bel Pre Road and Heathfield Road



Figure 3: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Heathfield Road/Postgate Terrace

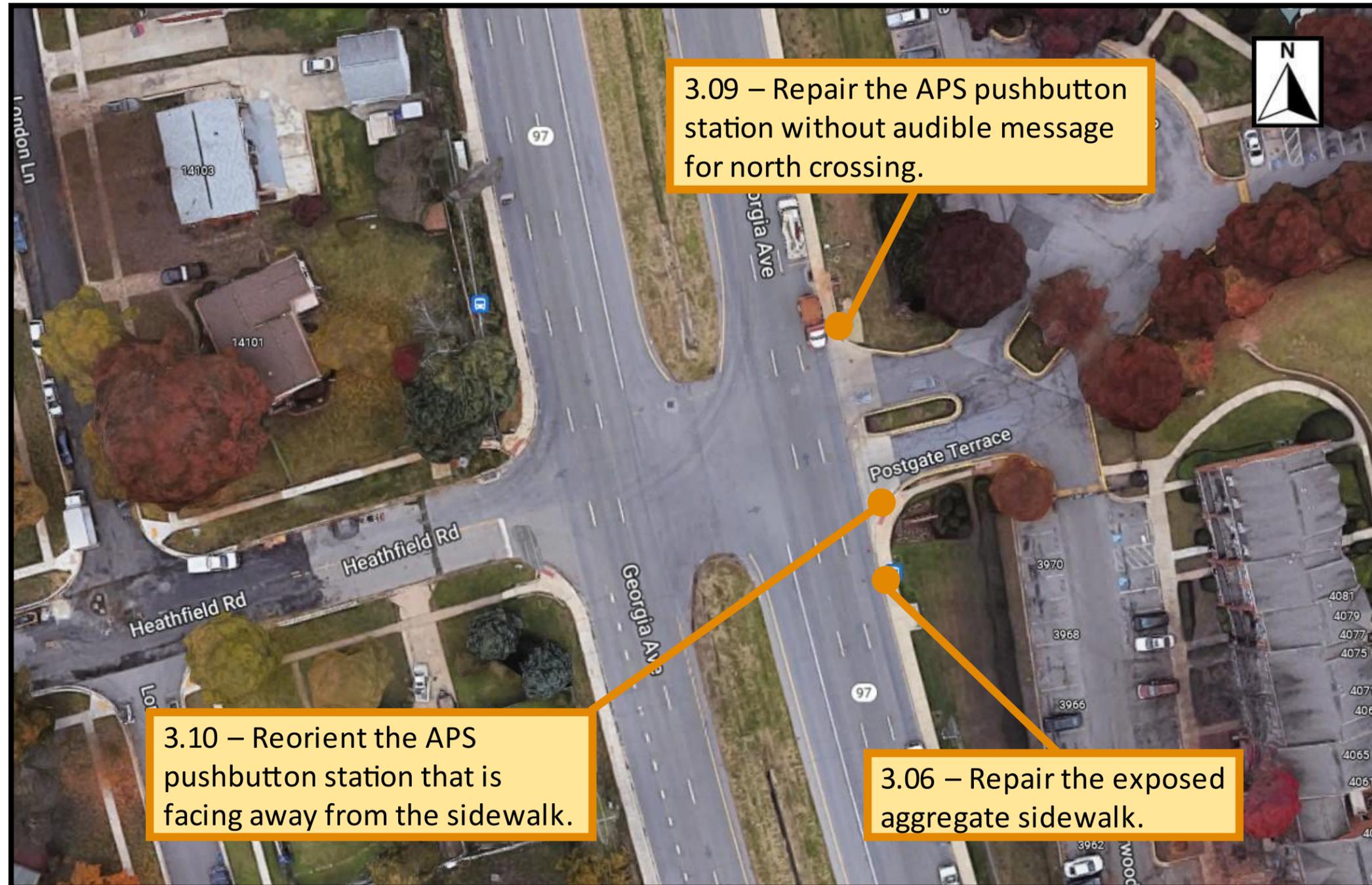


Figure 4: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Heathfield Road and the Home Depot Driveway



Figure 5: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue)

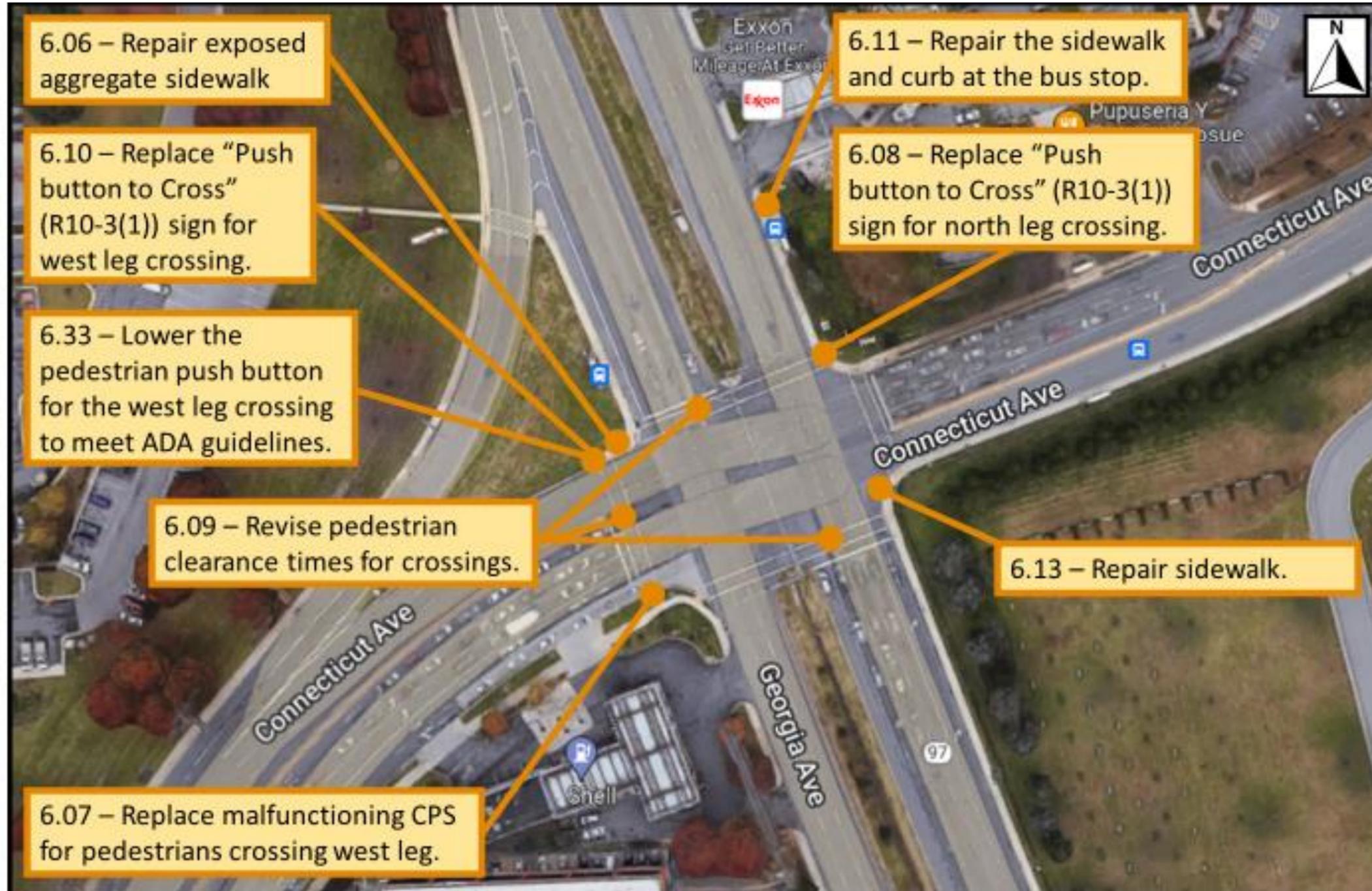


Figure 6: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Aspen Hill Road



Figure 7: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Aspen Hill Road

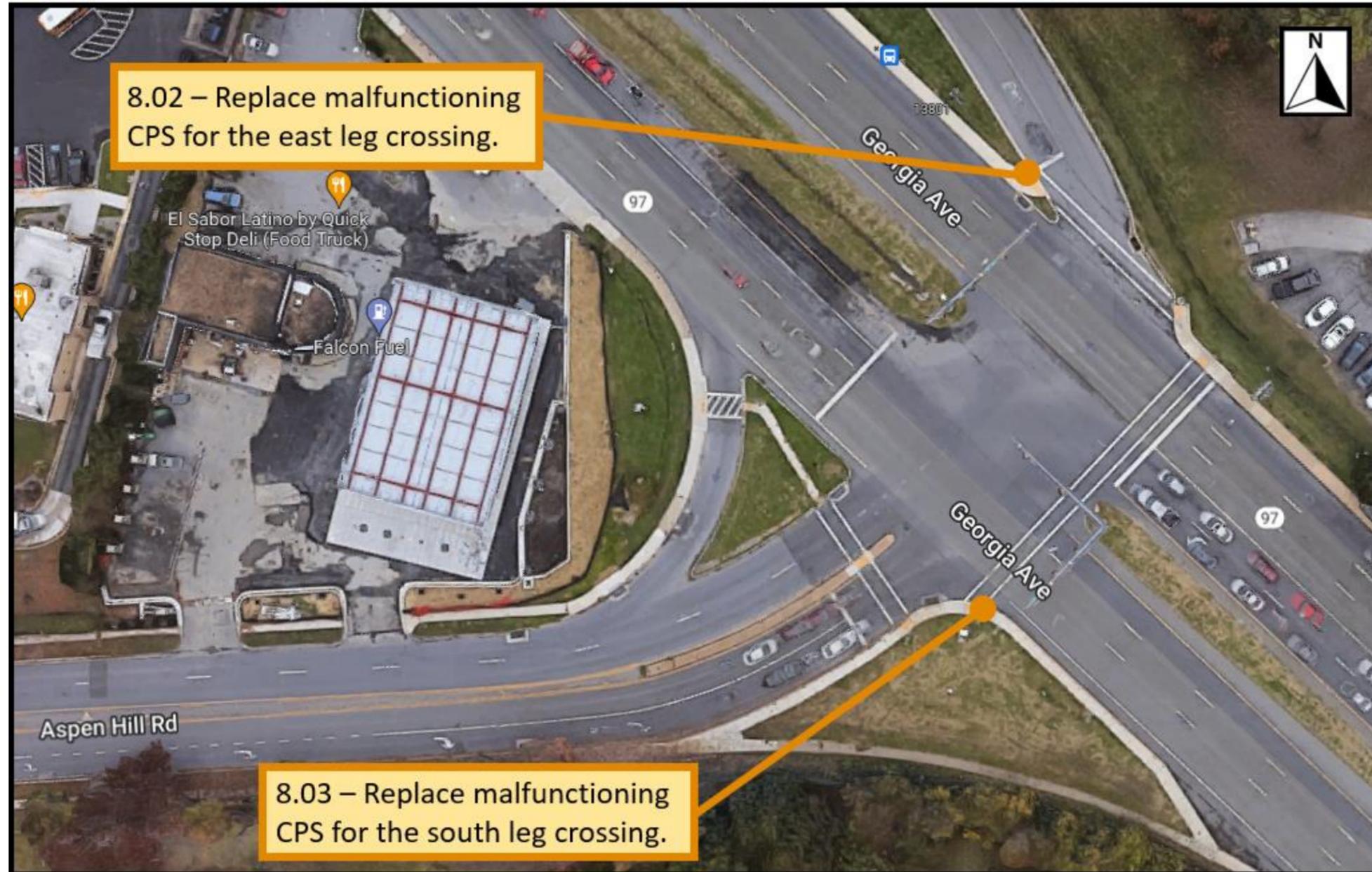


Figure 8: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Wendy Lane and Ralph Road



Figure 9: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) between Ralph Road and Hewitt Avenue

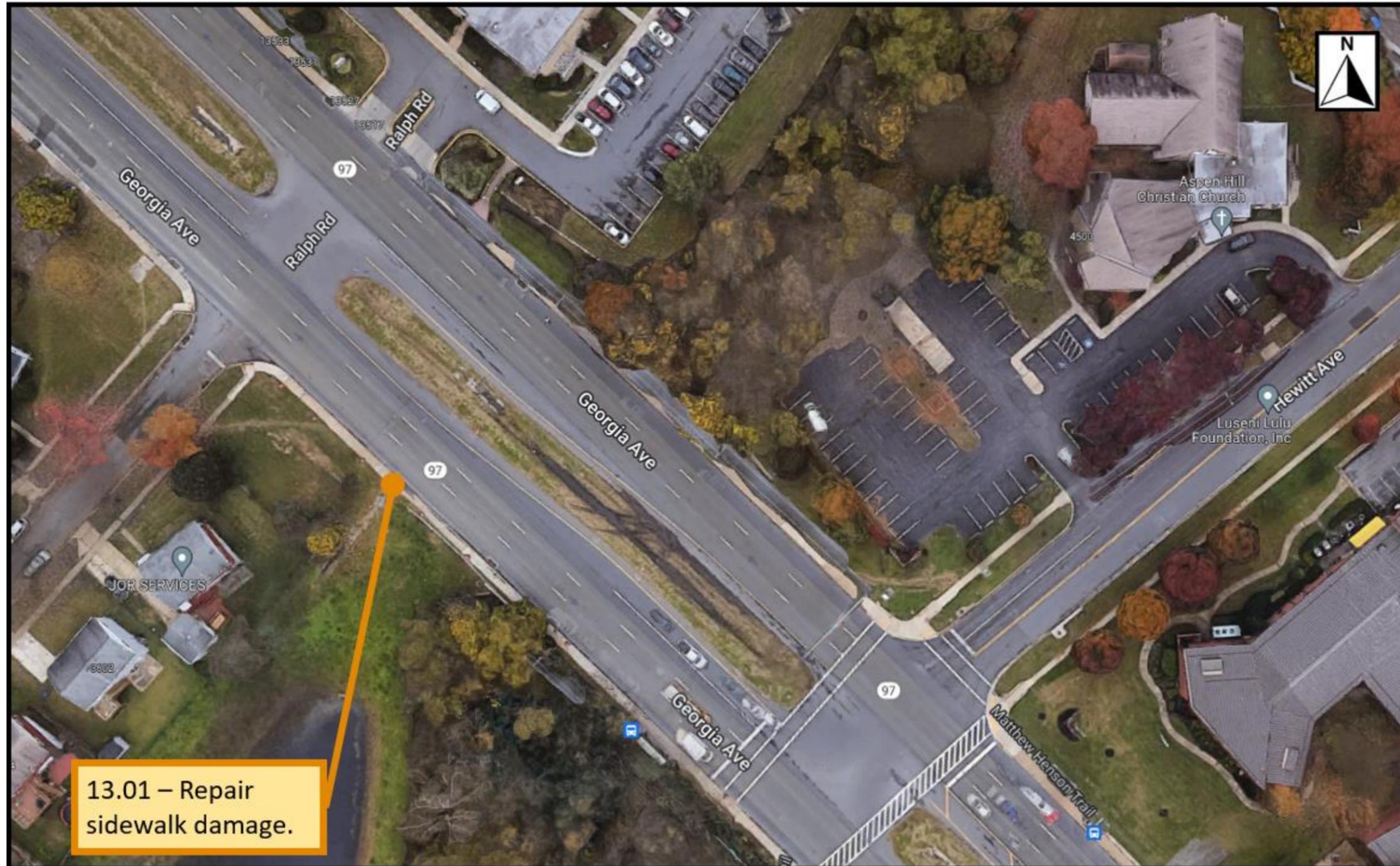


Figure 10: MCDOT – Specific Recommendations: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) at Hewitt Avenue

